

# **AN INVESTIGATION OF STUDENTS' SPEAKING CHALLENGES IN ACADEMIC SPEAKING CLASSES**

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## **Abstract**

This study aims to investigate speaking problems faced by university students and how they dealt with their problems. More specifically, this study was conducted in Academic Speaking classes at English Language Education Program, Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana (ELE-UKSW), Salatiga. Many ELE-UKSW students experience a lot of anxieties when joining Academic Speaking class. Therefore, it is crucial to discover the strategies used by the students to speak English fluently. The participants of the study were forty students of the 2016 academic year at ELE-UKSW. The researcher used qualitative method, and the data for the study were collected using open-ended questionnaire and interview. The analysis of the data showed that the participants experience speaking challenges such as deficiency of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and self-confidence which became the primary factors perceived by the students. Besides, this study seemed to indicate that students had essential strategies in dealing with their speaking challenges. Eventually, this study proposed some strategies to help students minimize their anxieties and master their oral skill. These strategies are independent practice, peer practice and prepare essential points as an attempt to support the development of their vocal ability specifically in Indonesian contexts.

**Keywords:** speaking, academic speaking, speaking challenges, speaking strategies.